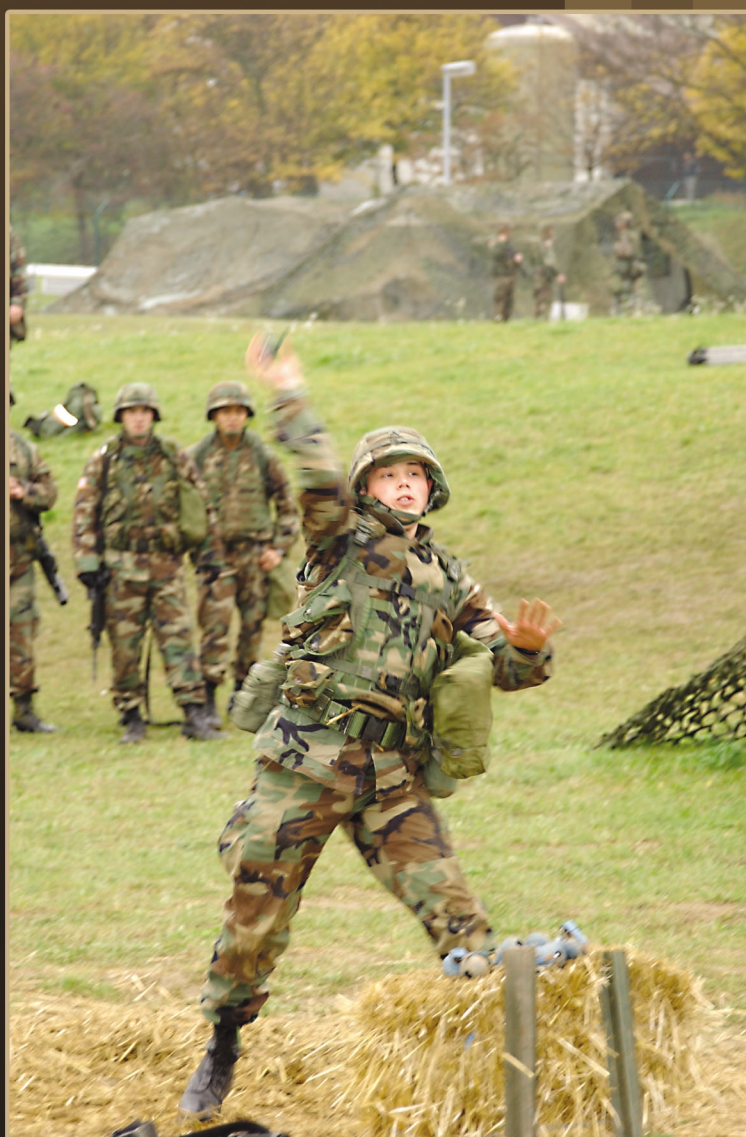


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without actually firing the weapon, saving Soldiers' time and the units' training dollars.

"This is a highly expedient way to zero," said Staff Nicholas Zielinski of 1-36th IN. "We can save a little money and concentrate more on training. And training is something 1-36th IN will not lose focus on.

Even after 15 months of combat in Iraq, battle-hardened units like the Spartans of



Pvt. Chris Kiel, Co. C, 1-36th IN, lofts a grenade during the grenade assault portion of the Expert Infantryman's Badge qualification in Friedberg, Germany, in November.

1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, continue to focus on infantryman's skills and conduct EIB qualification courses. Returning to home station in Friedberg, Germany, from the heat of Iraq, the unit wasted no time after their welcome home in September, refocusing on their mission and beginning EIB in November.

In conjunction with EIB, 1-36th IN conducted training for its support Soldiers.

The advent of combat for the U.S. Army in Iraq has brought about greater focus on the premise that every Soldier is an infantryman. Taking advantage of the renewed emphasis on combat skills, 1-36th IN integrated Warrior Training into their preparation for EIB.

Warrior Training, specifically geared for combat support and combat service support military occupational specialties, brings forth lessons learned and applies them to infantry-skill based training for the "soft MOS's."

Integrating the unit's support Soldiers into the overall-training picture is a priority for 1-36th IN.

"They are around us all the time," explained Johnson, referring to the non-infantry Soldiers assigned to 1-36th IN. "This type of training is so very valuable to the non-infantry Soldiers that are an integral part of our unit because they are with us in combat."

The Warrior Training program is comprised of nine Warrior Drills and 40 Warrior tasks designed to bring the non-infantry Soldiers on line with the skills required to be successful in a combat environment.

"I think it's right on line," said Johnson. "You can't beat value of the training as a Soldier in combat will never know when they may have to call on these skills for practical application."